



September 19, 2006

Dear House Technology & Energy Member:

The Michigan Retailers Association strongly supports video competition in Michigan and streamlining the process to deploy new services. Competition is the lifeblood of the retail industry, and it is important for our state and for Michigan businesses and consumers.

The quickest, most logical way to offer consumers a choice in cable is through a new statewide franchise system. The current local franchise process is outdated, time consuming and doesn't make sense in today's fast-paced world of technology.

I am aware that the state House Energy and Technology Committee is working on legislation that will help bring much-needed competition and investment to our state. The new state law should allow new video providers to quickly enter the market while ensuring local governments receive the revenue they depend on. In addition, state legislation should not include mandatory build-out requirements. Forcing new companies to deploy everywhere deters new entrants, stifles competition and doesn't benefit the general public.

I look forward to following the progress of this important legislation for Michigan. Passage of a new statewide franchise bill not only means competition, it means valuable economic investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Meyer'.

Larry Meyer
Chairman and CEO